

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

GALLATIN RIVER COMMUNICATIONS L.L.C.)
AND NTS SERVICES CORP.)
)
Joint Petition for Approval of Negotiated)
Interconnection Agreement)
Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252)

~~NO. 01-NA~~

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL

I, Stephen V. Murray, in my capacity as Director of Regulatory Affairs for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. ("Gallatin") respectfully submit this Statement in Support of the Joint Petition for Approval of a Negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Gallatin and NTS Services Corp. ("NTS").

The attached Interconnection, Agreement ("the Agreement"), including provisions for Collocation and related telecommunications services under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sometimes referred to as "the Act") between Gallatin and NTS was reached through voluntary negotiations between the parties. Accordingly, Gallatin and NTS request approval pursuant to Sections 252 (a) (1) and 252 (e) of the Act.

In accordance with Sections 251 and 252 of the Act, the parties engaged in good faith negotiations and an agreement was reached on November 5, 2001. The Agreement becomes effective the next business day following the day the Illinois Commerce Commission approves the Agreement. The Agreement has a term of three (3) years.

The key provisions of the Agreement are summarized as follows. The Agreement provides for designated services and/or facilities as described in the Agreement and Exhibits. Rates are also specified in the respective exhibits. Also, the Agreement provides that NTS, except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, is the exclusive interface with NTS customers in connection with the marketing and offering of NTS services.

Also, the Agreement contains provisions that allow each party to terminate traffic on each other's networks; it allows each party (Gallatin and NTS) to establish meet-point billing arrangements; it contains provisions for service ordering and trunk provisioning; it includes provisions prohibiting unauthorized changes to a subscriber's presubscribed carrier choice and the protection of customer proprietary information.

Payment by NTS to Gallatin for services provided, by Gallatin to NTS, pursuant to the Agreement are due thirty calendar days from the billing date. If NTS disputes a billing statement issued by Gallatin it must inform Gallatin of the nature and basis for the

dispute before the payment due date. If a dispute is not resolved within 30 days, either party may invoke the dispute resolution process provided in Article III. NTS has the right to adopt any publicly filed Agreement, or any interconnection, resale, collocation or network element agreement contained therein, to which Gallatin is a party and has been approved by an appropriate State Commission. The Agreement also contains provisions regarding indemnification and insurance requirements.

Also, the Agreement contains alternative dispute resolution provisions, which require negotiation and arbitration. The parties are required to continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution proceeding. The Agreement is binding on successors and permitted assigns of the parties.

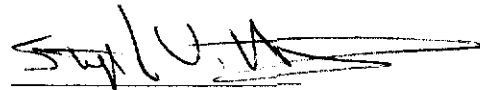
Gallatin will make this Agreement available (pursuant to 252 (i) of the Act) to any other telecommunications carrier operating within its territory. Other carriers are also free to negotiate their own terms and conditions pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act. For this reason, the Agreement is not discriminatory.

Implementation of this Agreement is consistent with the public interest because it will promote competition and enhance the ability of NTS to provide Illinois telecommunications users with a competitive alternative for telecommunications services.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF ALAMANCE)

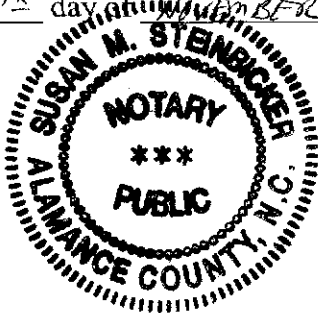
ss.

Stephen V. Murray, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that he is Director of Regulatory Affairs for Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. and is duly authorized by Gallatin River Communications L.L.C. to make this verification; that he has read the above and foregoing Statement in Support of Joint Petition for Approval and knows the contents thereof; and that said contents are true, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.



Stephen V. Murray
Gallatin River Communications
103 South Fifth Street
P.O. Box 1167
Mebane, N.C. 27302
919/563-8109

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public for the State of NORTH CAROLINA this 16th day of NOVEMBER 2001.


Notary Public

My commission expires:

11-24-2004